



April 18, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gala on April 25, 2006

On April 25, 2006, the AIAA will host its Annual Honors and Awards Banquet (banquet) at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, Washington, DC. NASA Administrator, Mike Griffin will be receiving AIAA's highest award, Honorary Fellow Award. Mr. William Gerstenmaier will receive the AIAA International Cooperation Award for 2006. Three other NASA employees will be receiving awards that evening for their accomplishments in the scientific community. Thomas Brooks, NASA Langley; Kevin Petersen, NASA Dryden; and Richard Wlezien, NASA Headquarters for their notable and valuable contributions in aeronautics or astronautics. These three individuals will receive a "fellows" award.

Mr. Gerstenmaier is well known for his unparalleled accomplishments as Manager of the International Space Station Program, providing leadership to the 16-nation, 5-agency partnership pursuing this unprecedented and highly complex technical endeavor. The banquet will be widely attended by officials from other Federal agencies, members of Congress and their staffers, academia, industry and aerospace associations. Approximately 450 individuals will be attending to the dinner. The estimated cost of the dinner, which includes all food and beverages, is \$99.66 per person. The dinner will allow NASA employees the opportunity to discuss space related issues and concerns with other attendees.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event so that NASA invitees may attend the event without charge. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

R. Andrew Falcon